

Over 100,000 cumulative responses to date!

Blue Star Families' annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey has been providing a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family since 2009.



Blue Star Families The Military Child Experience

Military children relocate and change schools frequently, and are often separated from their service member parent(s).

77%



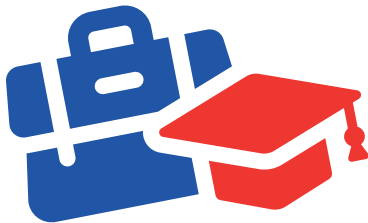
of active-duty families have been separated for at least one month due to military service in the 12 months prior to survey fielding.¹

60%

A majority of active-duty families report they have moved four or more times due to their service member's orders.²

31%

of active-duty families with at least one child enrolled in K-12 education report their oldest child has attended five or more schools.³



Many parents are not aware of resources like the **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**.

74%

of active-duty respondents with at least one child enrolled in K-12 education did not know about the Interstate Compact.⁴

Most parents report their schools do a good job of welcoming their military kids.

The proportion of active-duty family respondents who agreed that their child's school ...

65% did an excellent job of welcoming my child.

63% was receptive when I advocated for my child.

52% understands the unique challenges of military families.

51% understands the impacts of frequent moves on my child.

But a smaller proportion — only 49% — agree that their child's school was flexible when it came to course placement.

Blue Star Families' annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family. For that reason, it is a blueprint for strengthening America and identifying how we can continue to enhance military family life.

¹ Blue Star Families (2024). 2023 Military Family Lifestyle Survey comprehensive report. [Unpublished data].

² Ibid.

³ Blue Star Families (2023). 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey comprehensive report. https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/BSF_MFLS_Spring23_Full_Report_Digital.pdf

⁴ Blue Star Families (2023). 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey comprehensive report.





Blue Star Families

The Military Child Experience

Military families find schools to be an **important connection point**

22%

According to active-duty families, the top-reported method for meeting and connecting with new friends after relocating was their child(ren)'s activities.⁵

But many military families wish their children's teachers knew more about how the military lifestyle can impact their education.

Top Three Issues Military Families Would Want Their Child(ren)'s Teachers to Receive Training On:⁶

59%

General understanding of the impact of frequent moves on my child

54%

Strategies for how to work with parents to help children fill in educational gaps that have emerged due to moves, or to pursue advanced curriculum if the child is "ahead" of their new class

40%

Insight into how children may respond to prolonged service member absence

Most military kids are thriving and feel like they belong.

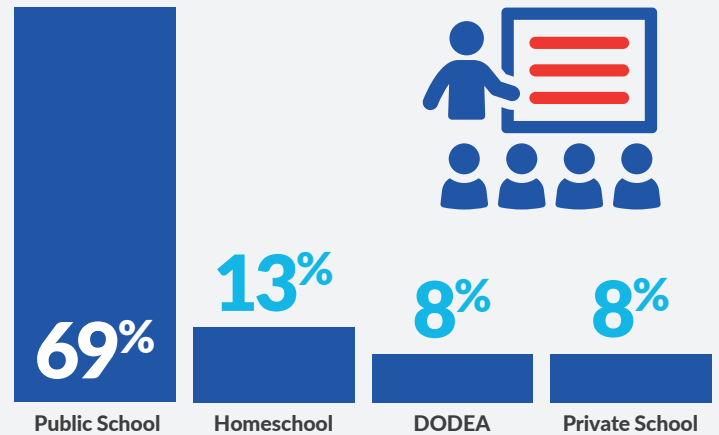
68%

of active-duty family respondents with at least one child in K-12 reported their oldest child was thriving in school.⁷

63%

of active-duty families with at least one child in K-12 report their oldest child seems to feel a strong sense of belonging to his/her school.⁸

Military children are found in a variety of school settings



Type of School Attended by Oldest Child Enrolled in K-12 Education⁹



Interested in learning more about how to support military children and families in your community? Reach out to Leah Love, Director, Brand Marketing and Community Engagement, at llove@bluestarfam.org.

⁵ Blue Star Families (2024). 2023 Military Family Lifestyle Survey comprehensive report. [Unpublished data].

⁶ Blue Star Families. (2020). 2019 Military Family Lifestyle Survey comprehensive report. <https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BSF-2019-Survey-Comprehensive-Report-Digital-rev200305.pdf>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Blue Star Families. (2022). 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey comprehensive report. https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BSF_MFLS_Results2021_ComprehensiveReport_3_22.pdf

